

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 IO-13 OES-06 COME-00 /088 W

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R 132052Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3946

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EAID, ECIN, PFOR, GT, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN-GUATEMALAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE STRESSES

AGREEMENT ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES AND IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS

REF: GUATEMALA 4874

SUMMARY. GUATEMALAN AND VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTERS SIGNED ROUTINE JOINT COMMUNIQUE JUNE 10 AT CONCLUSION OF GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S SHORT VISIT TO CARACAS. COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED STANDARD APPEALS IN SUPPORT OF NIEO, SELA, REGULATION OF TNES AND PRAISED LEVEL OF BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. VISIT FITS WITHIN GOV'S POLICY OF INCREASING TIES WITH CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS. RHETORIC, HOWEVER, ABOUT MUTUAL GOALS DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE ANY SUBSTANTIAL GOV ASSISTANCE TO GOG. END SUMMARY.

1. GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES SIGNED JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM JUNE 10 AT END OF TWO DAY VISIT TO CARACAS. DURING HIS STAY, MOLINA CALLED ON PRESIDENT PEREZ AND HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH ESCOVAR AT SOME LENGTH.

2. FIRST PART OF COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS STANDARD LITANY OF APPEALS  
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IN FAVOR OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, SELA, NON-

INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES, CONTROL OF STATES OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND GROUP-77 PROPOSALS AT UNCTAD IV. COMMUNIQUE ALSO AGREED ON NECESSITY TO STRENGTHEN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM THROUGH REORGANIZATION.

3. SECOND PART OF COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT TWO MINISTERS SIGNED A BASIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, STRESSED THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT MORE FULLY THE 1969 CULTURAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, AND, STRESSED THE DESIRE THAT THE PETROLEUM AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON JUNE 22 THIS YEAR "SERVE TO INCREASE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

4. PENULTIMATE SUBSTANTIVE PARAGRAPH NOTED THAT GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MADE KNOWN GOG'S VIEWS ON THE BELIZE ISSUE, AND THAT HMG AND THE GOG ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING A MEANS OF SETTLING THE ISSUE. ESCOVAR, ON THIS POINT, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

5. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT VISIT WAS PREFUNCTORY IN NATURE AND THAT GOV WAS PLEASED THAT GOG AGREED TO STANDARD RHETORIC ON NIBO, SELA, AND OTHER NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. HE ALSO SAID THAT PRIVATELY PRESIDENT PEREZ OFFERED MOLINA LIMITED DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE, AND THAT FURTHER, VENEZUELAN BUSINESSMEN ARE IN PROCESS OF SUPPLYING NUMBER OF PREFABRICATED HOUSES TO GOG.

6. VISIT FITS WITHIN VENEZUELA'S DESIRE TO BUILD STRONG TIES TO ITS NEIGHBORS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA. AS IN THE CASE OF OTHER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS CARACAS HAS MADE, THE LEVEL OF RHETORIC ABOUT SHARED GOALS IMPLIES A LEVEL OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE RECIPIENT WHICH MAY NOT NECESSARILY MATERIELIZE. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM AGREEMENT WITH GOG AS REPORTED GUATEMALA 4874 HAS APPARENTLY BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY GOG, ALTHOUGH GOV HERE DID NOT STRESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH GUATEMALA DURING MOLINA'S VISIT BEYOND PRO FORMA LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE CITED ABOVE.  
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